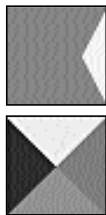


FLEET FOCUS



Bravo Zulu

USS Crommelin (FFG 37)

Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt.j.g. Jason Lankford
OSCS(SW) Chris Thompson
SM1(SW) Frederick Ruppenthal
MS1 Michael Bessler
DK2(SW/AW) O'Neil Wilson
BM2(SW) Tracy Kelley
OS2 Oscar Gonzalez
OS2 Alan Hewlett
SM2 Eddie Thomas
SN Shaun Ivone
SHSN Joshua Ledom

Good Conduct Medal

ENCS(SW) Dave Herring
RMC(SW) Wes Gerard
MMC(SW) Byron Reaney
FCC(SW) Tim Robinson
ETC(SW) Wes Kirby
QM1(SW) Mike Caple
HT1(SW) Richard Barela
ET1(SW) Keith Fallon
PC1 Dennis Howard
FC1 Corey Anderson
EM1(SW) Keith Jones
MA1(SW) Mark Kern
SK1(SW) Daniel Geronimo
SK1(SW) Efen Ramirez
GSM1(SW) Ferdinand Munsayac
SH2 Duane White
HT2 Ezekiel Jackson
TM2 James Turner
OS2 David Hankins
ET2(SW) Christopher Hudson
ET2 Elijah Merchant
STG2 Brent Ames
OS2 Oscar Gonzalez
STG2 Tim Wright
RM2 David Ockert
EM3 Jeffrey Kruger
EM3 Donovan Porter
OS3 Corey Jones
EW3 Nathan Holley
RM3 Lindsey Petrocy
STG3 Bryan Verse
ET3 Sean McIntire
STG3 Ryan Schwegman

VP-47 ordnancemen support Whidbey Island squadrons

By Lt. Dominic Caronello
VP-47

Several patrol and Marine Hornet squadrons participated in live weapons drops on an old sea tug at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai in January. The group of maritime aviation squadrons included the Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47), the Screaming Eagles of VP-1 and the Grey Knights of VP-46.

VP-47 provides logistic and maintenance support to aircraft that pass through Barbers Point en route to various destinations throughout the world as well as support to those squadrons conducting training in the Hawaiian island chain. Live-fire exercises and undersea warfare training place the greatest demand upon the hosting squadron; however, the members of VP-47's ordnance shop always welcome the opportunity to demonstrate their technical acumen and professionalism.

Under the leadership of Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Mark Janiec, the ordnance shop arrived at work at 6:30 a.m., well before the first aircrew conducted their brief. By 8 a.m., ordnance personnel had assembled all the required equipment and reported to the weapons loading area.

Base Weapons transported eight 500-pound Mark 82 bombs to an isolated part of the airfield. Under the supervision of quality assurance safety observer Aviation



Lt. Dominic Caronello photo

(from left to right) A03 Ralph Ornelas, A02 Brian Leonard, A02 Hans Pluntke and A03 Brian Wood of VP-47 load ordnance on a P-3C Orion aircraft.

Ordnanceman 1st Class Tony Herring, Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Brian Leonard inspected the bombs and fuses and signed the acceptance forms. The load team began loading the first plane at 9 a.m. and completed the task by 9:45 a.m. The load team continued their work well into the afternoon loading multiple weapons on multiple aircraft. Each of the aircraft went on to conduct successful missions.

As P-3 Ordnance Load Team Leader, Leonard directs and supervises four team members who hoist, hang, and arm the weapons on the aircraft, while a senior ordnanceman observes. Commented Leonard, "Although we treat inert shapes and the real thing the same, all the guys in the shop

live for when we get to load live ordnance."

Janiec expressed satisfaction with the performance of his troops. "We have some guys with a lot of experience, like A02 Hans Pluntke, A03 Ralph Ornelas, and A03 Brian Wood, who loaded thousands of pounds of ordnance on the last deployment. Additionally, we have veterans like A01 Kevin Blake, and A01 Louis Cummings who have just come from other communities. We have some junior guys like A03 Hutchison and A03 Stevens who loaded live weapons for the first time," he noted.

The Golden Swordsmen ordnancemen continue to provide service both to VP-47 and the other squadrons of the Pacific Fleet.

Local Brownie troop tours USS Frederick

By Ens. Sharon Boyd
USS FREDERICK

Recently, USS Frederick (LST 1184) hosted Brownie Troop 121 from McGrew Point, for the Brownies to deliver hundreds of boxes of Girl Scout cookies to Frederick's Sailors.

Command Master Chief Warren Murata greeted the girls, who were more than eager to tell how they raised money for the 240 boxes of cookies. The girls made a big hit as they toured the ship handing out the cookies.

The first stop for Troop 121 was the pilot house. There, they gave Quartermaster 3rd Class Robert Martin a dozen Samoan cookies. With a mouth full of treats, Martin gave the girls a brief lesson in navigation and helmsmanship. "Each girl had a turn at the wheel to get the feel of driving a ship. I think I had as much fun as they had," said Martin.

After departing the bridge, the group headed to the combat information center. "I really got a kick out of showing the Brownies my job. They were really interested," said Operations Specialist 1st Class Dwight Carter. "The girls learned about station-to-station communications aboard ship, but were most fascinated with contact tracking. They liked the radar and especially the dead reckoning trace table because it looked like a great place to set up their cookies."

Signalman 3rd Class Robert Smith gave the Brownies their next lesson after receiving a box of Trefoils. Smith introduced them to the old world style of communications. "I showed them Morse code on the search light, semaphore, and flag hoist. Each of them was most excited to see the flag that represented the first letter of her name," said Smith.

Frederick's primary mission is amphibious operations and no tour would be complete without seeing where that takes place. The girls were in awe as they stepped into the tank deck and got a feel for the size and carrying capability of the ship.

The afternoon ended on the mess decks where the crew served ice cream for the Brownie troop. During a question and answer session, the girls learned about the opportunities for education, training, and future planning in the Navy.

Boston: Sub comes to Pearl Harbor for decommissioning

Continued from A-1

to victory in the Cold War and have defended the nation with distinction."

Built by Electric Boat, Boston was commissioned in Groton in January 1982 as the 16th Los Angeles Class attack submarine and the seventh Naval ship to bear the name.

During her career, Boston completed nine deployments to all corners of the globe. Her first deployment, in fact, was a seven-month-long voyage around the world. Fittingly, her last deployment was in support of UNITAS and took the submarine around the point of South America.

During its service, Boston earned the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, four Meritorious Unit Commendations, Three Battle Efficiency "E" Awards, three Golden Anchor Awards, three Silver Anchor Awards and the Arleigh Burke trophy.

Upon arrival Boston became a temporary member of Submarine Squadron Three.

AROUND THE HORN

Emir of Bahrain dies

Sheikh Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifa, Emir of Bahrain, suffered a heart attack and died March 6. He was buried just a few hours after his death.

"The sudden death of His Highness Shaikh Isa, the Emir of Bahrain, is a great loss to the people of his country, to the Gulf region and to the United States," said Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. "Since he became ruler in 1961, His Highness Shaikh Isa has been a force for peace and stability in the Middle East. He has also been a strong and loyal friend to the United States and particularly to the U.S. Navy."

The new Emir of Bahrain, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, has pledged to continue pro-Western policies.

Navy's sit-up berth selected for installation aboard LPD-17, USS Nimitz

The U.S. Navy's Sit-Up berth was selected for installation aboard the new San Antonio (LPD 17)-class of amphibious ships. This was approved as part of the Design for Ownership initiative to improve quality of life at sea for Sailors and Marines.

The San Antonio-class will begin entering the Fleet in 2002. Sit-Up berths are also being purchased for a small berthing compartment aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

A new Navy design concept, the Sit-Up berth allows

a person to sit up with ample space to read, write or just relax. Some of the more significant features of this berth include the ability to sit upright in the rack, 40 percent more stowage space, a writing/reading surface, electrical outlet, shelf for small items and personal fan units.

Belleau Wood ARG returning home

The three ships of the USS Belleau Wood Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) are headed for home, after spending three months in the Arabian Gulf supporting Operation Southern Watch. USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3), USS Dubuque (LPD 8) and USS Germantown (LSD 42) are underway in the Arabian Sea, on their way to a much-deserved port visit in Thailand.

The ships had successfully completed Exercise Foal Eagle 1998 in Korea last October, when they received the order to immediately return to White Beach in Okinawa, offload the 4th Marine Air Ground Task Force, onload the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and proceed to the Gulf to relief the USS Boxer ARG. In just 96 hours, 1,800 Sailors and 2,100 Marines completed tasks other ARGs and carrier battle groups normally have weeks to accomplish before embarking on a major deployment. The ships left Okinawa Nov. 11, and arrived in the Gulf Nov. 22.

After a brief period in Okinawa to offload the 31st MEU, all three ships are expected to return to Sasebo just in time for St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

By YNC Desiree Gilliland
VPU-2



Cmdr. Gregory Osbourne



Cmdr. Jeffrey Locke

Joint Chiefs of Staff and Fleet Commander tasking. He directed the installation of 12 major aircraft sensor upgrades totaling \$3.2 million, ensuring mission aircraft kept pace with evolving technology. His flawless planning and execution of initial operational test and evaluation of the prototype Tactical Common Data Link and Fiber Optic Bus

Bates: Sub departs for final WESTPAC

Continued from A-1

efforts to divert war," said Machinist Mate 3rd Class Thomas Bowser, torpedo man on the Bates and native of Alexandria, Penn.

USS William H. Bates is the last Sturgeon class submarine to inactivate, and was commissioned May 5, 1973. The boat deployed for the first time on July 1974 and finishes her service with a total of 10 completed WESTPAC's.

William H. Bates was recently awarded with the Supply "E" for outstanding performance and the Administrative "A" for excellence in ship's personnel and administrative management by Capt. David McCall, Commander Submarine Squadron One.



COMSUBPAC photo

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680), departed Pearl Harbor last Friday for its final Western Pacific deployment.